GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1660
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2016
Non Bio-Degradable Waste
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed any norms/Rules for disposing of the nonbio-degradable garbage waste;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to prevent pollution, emanating from such garbage wastes; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure safety of the workers handling such wastes in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)
(a) &(b) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) (MSW) Rules, 2000 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These Rules provide procedures for management of municipal solid waste including for the non- bio-degradable waste. Regarding disposal of plastic waste components of non- biodegradable wastes, the Government has separately notified Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011. As per these Rules, inert and non-biodegradable waste, are required to be used for road construction, co-incineration etc. The non- biodegradable waste not found suitable either for recycling or for energy recovery are prescribed to be disposed ofin to sanitary landfills. Norms and environmental standards for landfills have been prescribed in MSW Rules, 2000.

(c) The MSW Rules 2000 provide the criteria and procedure for environmentally sound management of municipal solid waste. As per theRules, municipal authorities are the implementing agencies and responsible for development of infrastructure for collection, segregation, transportation, processing and disposal of the waste within their jurisdictions. Environmental standards for composting, landfill, leachate, ambient air and emission from incineration along withsiting criteria for waste processing and disposal facility including landfills have been provided in these Rules to control pollution. The State Pollution Control Boards grant authorization for setting up waste processing and disposal facility including landfills, and monitor the compliances of the standards under these Rules.
To make these Rules more effective, Ministry published draft Solid Waste Management Rules, 2015. These Rules aim to expand the jurisdiction of applicability; emphasize on gainful utilization of wastes; emphasis zero or minimum landfilling, enable local bodies to collect 'User Fee' and levy 'Spot Fine', separate regime of disposal of diapers and sanitary napkins, for disposal of Construction & Demolition wastes; promotion of city compost and their marketing; enable policy formulation for Waste to Energy; integration of ragpickers, kabadiwallas and self-help groups etc.in waste collection system. The Rules also delineate the role of stakeholders more explicitly including the role of waste generators, industries, waste recyclers, Central and State regulatory agencies.
(d) The MSW Rules 2000 prohibit manual handling of waste. The protection for health and hygiene of sanitary workers employed in Municipal Solid Waste Management is the responsibility of the local bodies.

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